

Recommendation on Citizen Information Network (CIN)

Submitted by Project Team 1

The Citizen Information Network (Project 1) Team acknowledges that there are a number of approaches to creating an infrastructure that supports an electronic government. Project Team 1 is charged with investigating these options. Whatever approach is taken, the Team wants certain assurances for the Citizen Information Network. The Team believes there are four options:

1. Build the network itself.

This would require a source of ongoing funding - most probably through the legislature or through user fees. This would also require a dedicated staff that can ensure the maintenance of the system.

2. Put out an RFP to hire a contractor to build the network.

This would also require a source of ongoing funding -but the work would be done by outside contractors, instead of the state, and would not give the state a great deal of control.

3. Put out an RFP for a sustainable partnership that benefits government, business, and customers.

4. Sign an MOU with the US Postal Service, which allows Iowa to become a pilot WINGS state.

This is not an either/or option - this option may be combined with any of the above. WINGS only provides the front-end gateway, the state continues to need to develop the back end.

The Project Team recommends option 3 - because it allows for a variety of companies to submit a variety of approaches to creating a self-sustaining network. The Project Team recommends that this RFP incorporate the following principals:

1. Approach can support all lowAccess projects and meet their deadlines.
2. Citizen does not bear the cost of the system.
3. The system can generate enough revenue to support itself.
4. Citizen access is the primary focus.
5. Proposal meets the 16 criteria established by the Team and adopted by the Steering Committee.